

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner has indicated that claims 11, 17 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of the allowable claims. Applicant elects to defer rewriting the objected to claims until the Examiner has considered Applicant's arguments. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

DRAWINGS

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the limitations of claim 17 must be shown in the Figures or cancelled from the claims. This claim relates to an embodiment of the present invention as illustrated in Figure 4. The limitations of claim 17 include the following features:

- A first sheet including conductive fibres extending in a first direction and non-conducting fibres extending in a second direction,
- Conducting yarns of the first sheet are electrically grouped to define a plurality of conducting rows,

- A second sheet including conductive fibres extending in a third direction different to said first direction and non-conducting fibres extending in a fourth direction,
- Conducting yarns of the second sheet are electrically grouped to define a plurality of conducting columns,
- The intersections of said rows and columns define separate regions of said keyboard device.

Figure 1 illustrates a fabric having lengths of conducting yarn (101) extending in one direction and lengths of non-conducting yarn (102) extending in a different direction. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate electrical grouping of conducting yarns of a layer into conductive bands. Figure 6 illustrates separate regions defined by intersections of rows and columns of conductive bands. Figure 7A illustrates the conducting columns of Figure 6 (of sheet 401 of Figure 4) whilst Figure 7B illustrates conducting rows of Figure 6 (of sheet 402 of Figure 4). Thus, it is submitted that the subject matter of claim 17 is illustrated in the Figures of the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

In the Office Action, it is stated that enabling support for the feature "tactile feedback provides an indication of the location of a key" of claims 8 and 9 cannot be found

in the specification. Amendment to claim 8 is proposed to replace the working “tactile feedback” with “key registration device”, as noted in the Amendments to the Claims section of this document. In light of the proposed amendment to claim 8, it is also proposed to amend to the dependency of each of claim 8 and 9, as noted in the Amendments to the Claims section of this document. The Examiner is respectfully directed to Figures 5, 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D and the accompanying description of Page 11, Line 8 to Page 14, Line 13, and Figures 26A and 26B and the accompanying description, in particular on Page 48, Lines 2 to 18. Each of these Figures illustrates a key registration device, the construction and operation of which is described in at least these referenced sections of the specification. The Examiner is also respectfully directed to the description on Page 38, Lines 2-6. Thus, it is submitted that an enabling description supporting the subject matter of claims 8 and 9 is contained in the specification. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-7, 10, 12-16, 18-22, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,333,736 (Sandbach). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patently distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant asserts that Sandbach does not constitute prior art in relation to the present application. Sandbach qualifies as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §103. Furthermore, Applicant hereby asserts that Sandbach, as well as the present application were, at the time of the

invention, under an obligation to be assigned to the same entity, Electrotexiles Company Limited. Accordingly, Application respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

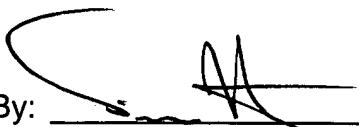
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Aug. 10, 2004

By:


Timothy D. MacIntyre
Reg. No. 42,824

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600